

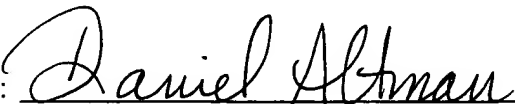
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The claims have been amended and new claims have been added in conformity with U.S. practice. The specification has been amended to correct clerical errors. For example, page 1, line 13 reads "a **metal oxide** such as **titanium**" (emphasis added). However, when titanium is oxidized, it is commonly named "titania". Accordingly, in correction (1), the term "titanium" has been changed to --titania--. Further, page 6, lines 9-11 reads "the particles are then introduced into a titanium **alkoxide** solution, and **hydrolysis** is conducted to form a coating layer of **titanium**" (emphasis added). However, as a result of the reaction, the "titanium" should be named --hydrolyzate of titanium alkoxide--. Accordingly, the term has been amended in correction (3). The terms indicated in corrections (2), (4), and (5) have been amended in a manner similar to the above. The amendments do not constitute the addition of new matter to the application, and entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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